

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 GAC-01 ACDA-19 PC-15

AID-20 RSR-01 /193 W

----- 081050

P R 161620 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3772

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMCONSUL INSTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 00487

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, BY, RW, TZ

SUBJECT: REBELLION ' S ACTIVE PHASE APPARENTLY OVER

REF: BUJUMBURA 486 AND 484; IZMIR 15 (ALL NOTAL)

1. BELGIAN COUNSELOR STATES FIGHTING OVER NEAR MUREHE AND INVADING REFUGEES HAVE WITHDRAWN INTO RWANDA.
 2. ACCORDING U. N. RES REP ATTACKERS TOOK TRUCK AND THREE LANDROVERS FROM MUREHE MINE.
 3. RES REP, QUOTING PRESIDENT MICOMBERO' S FRENCH PILOT, STATES PRESIDENT' S HELICOPTER WAS FIRED ON AT KIHOFI AIRSTRIP SUNDAY, MAY 13, IN COURSE PRESIDENT' S TOUR AFFECTED AREAS IN SOUTHERN BURUNDI.
 4. WHEN MACHINE GUN SUBSEQUENTLY FITTED ONTO
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HELICOPTER, FRENCH AMBASSADOR ORDERED PILOT NOT TO FLY IT, PRESUMABLY TO AVOID ANY LATER ACCUSATION FRENCH TOOK ACTIVE ROLE IN HOSTILITIES.

5. RES REP HAS TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWN FOREIGN TECHNICIANS (TEN OR TWELVE ALTOGETHER) FROM AREAS WITHIN THIRTY KILOMETERS OF BURUNDI FRONTIERS WITH RWANDA AND TANZANIA.

6. GOVERNOR OF GITEGA, APPARENTLY ACTING ON OWN INITIATIVE AS USUAL, HAS CALLED IN ALL U. S. MISSIONARY TRANSMITTERS. (IN ACCORDANCE WITH GRB ORDER, TRANSMITTERS HAVE NOT BEEN USED SINCE LAST YEAR' S EVENTS.) IN CONTRAST, MISSIONARIES IN RUYIGI STILL HAVE TRANSMITTING CAPABILITY WHICH PRESUMABLY COULD BE USED IN DIRE EMERGENCY.

7. FOREIGN COMMUNITY SOMEWHAT SHAKEN BY PAST WEEK' S EVENTS, INCLUDING ATTACK ON " SUBVERSIVE" BELGIAN INFLUENCES (BUJUMBURA 484). BELGIAN COUNSELOR PREDICTS, HOWEVER, THAT, AS RESULT HIS EMBASSY' S PROMPT RECOMMENDATION TO BRUSSELS, BELGIAN NEWS MEDIA WILL NOT REACT STRONGLY.

8. COMMENT: FIGHTING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT FORCES AND INVADING REFUGEES APPARENTLY OVER FOR MOMENT WITH GOVERNMENT IN CONTROL ALL MAJOR POSITIONS. HOWEVER, AT LEAST IN SOUTH, REBELS SEEN RETAIN CAPACITY FOR MAKING TROUBLE AND FREQUENT MINOR CRISES DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. FOR TIME BEING, GRB APPEARS INTENT ON DEALING SHARPLY WITH ANY MILITARY THREAT WHILE TRYING TO PRESERVE ITS POLICY OF NATIONAL UNITY, WHICH, WHILE FAR FROM SATISFYING TO THOSE WHO FEEL HUTU DO NOT ENJOY EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES, IS DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT OVER SAVAGE REPRESSION OF LAST YEAR. AS USUAL, HARMFUL ROLE FOREIGN INFLUENCES OVEREMPHASIZED. (EMBASSY HAS JUST RECEIVED TEXT POLITICAL BUREAU DECLARATION REPORTED BUJUMBURA 484 UNDER COVER FORMIN NOTE .)

KEITER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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